

3 killed in Algeria shootout

ALGERIA (R) — Two police commissioners and a policeman were killed in a confrontation late Tuesday in the Algerian town of Milia, the official news agency A.P.E said. A group of six men, including "Algerian Alibis" and "we will kill your enemies of God" burst into the barracks and attacked three police guards with knives, an ax and a handgrenade, it said. They seized a pistol and an automatic rifle from the police and prepared for a siege. Two policemen escaped and the others fought for their lives at a hostage. A 35-year-old police officer died in the room. Two fundamentalists were killed and the others were wounded, A.P.E said. The agency said the policemen fought like dogs but did not have any help. In another report it said the fundamentalists killed him when he refused to hand over his weapon at the start of the attack. State prosecutor Ammar Benmoula said it was too early to say what motivates the attackers. "They are well dressed but they don't have identify papers. For the moment they are referring to Al Qaeda. They want to make a statement of money — 13,000 dinars (1,800) on one side and 12,000 dinars on the other," he told a news conference in Algiers, 40 kilometers south of Algiers.

جولان تايمز

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Jordan Press Foundation



Anti-communism law scrapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet, Tuesday decided to annul a 1953 law on combatting communism and its amendments. The decision comes in accordance with the government's commitment to revise all exceptional laws and the laws that touch upon public freedoms and to work to cancel or amend them in a way that does not contradict the democratic way of life, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. The Council of Ministers is expected to take a number of procedures by which other crimes will be transferred to civil courts instead of the martial law court. The cabinet will also study the cancellation of the defense law after the completion of a study concerning the matter, Petra said.

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King: No more room for PLO concessions

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has little room left for political concessions in getting peace talks started with Israel, according to an interview published in an American newspaper.

If the PLO appears to be giving and giving and giving and more is demanded of it, what can be the result, except shaking the foundation of confidence that it has from its constituency," King Hussein said in an interview published in the Boston Globe newspaper.

"My fear, my worry here is that there are possibly attempts to undermine the PLO, to destroy its image with its own constituency," he said.

King Hussein told the Globe that Jordan, which in 1968 established administrative ties with the West Bank, would play a role in supporting the PLO's efforts to assume a role in negotiating an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

remaining proposed Israel-Palestine peace talks.

King Hussein said even though the PLO had not U.S. criteria for becoming peace negotiating partners, the peace dialogue has remained stalled.

Basically, my feeling is that the PLO leadership in power now is afraid of peace," King Hussein said to the Boston Globe. "It is afraid to take a historic gamble and make a historic contribution," he said.

He said the PLO's key decision to accept Israel's right to exist and adopt U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 had not spurred the peace process and Secretary of State James Baker failed to break the stalemate "the situation will deteriorate."

King Hussein told the Globe that Jordan, which in 1968 established administrative ties with the West Bank, would play a role in supporting the PLO's efforts to assume a role in negotiating an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On a different subject, King Hussein said people behind recent shootings on Jordan's cease-fire line with Israel were aiming to create tension.

"There is a new situation on the cease-fire line... resulting from attacks aimed at creating a climate of tension," newspapers quoted King Hussein as saying Monday on a tree-planting ceremony.

"Perhaps there are aims and goals which go beyond limited operations against Jordan and there may be more than one party involved in mounting them," he said.

There have been several outbreaks of gunfire this month along the cease-fire line.

On Jan. 7 the Israeli army said its troops killed a Jordanian soldier in a gambit after he crossed the border in the northern area of Hamat Gader. The Jordanian army said a conscript based in the area and gone missing the previous day.

HM King Hussein

A Damascus-based Palestinian group, Fatah Uprising, claimed responsibility for what it said were guerrilla attacks on Israeli military patrols in the same area on Jan. 4 and 5.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said last week infiltrators trying to reach countries bordering Jordan would be shot.

Some Jordanian officials have said Israel is manufacturing border incidents to divert attention from its attempts to quell the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'Civil war' in Caucasus

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Fierce fighting raged Tuesday between Armenian and Azerbaijani volunteer squads on the border between their southern republics with troops sent in by Moscow apparently incapable of ending the violence.

Interior Ministry spokesman Alexander Arzumanyan, a spokesman for the Armenian national movement — or Popular Front — said helicopters carrying armed volunteers had reached Azerbaijan carrying armed volunteers.

"Several helicopters carrying armed volunteers have been flying to Getashen village in Khanlar district of Azerbaijan," he told Reuters by telephone from the Armenian capital, Yerevan. "Fierce exchanges of fire continued there today."

A Soviet newspaper described the fighting as a civil war, and authorities raised the death toll in the ethnic clashes to at least 56.

The Soviet Interior Ministry reported that armed bands had seized tanks, grenades, machine guns and unmarked helicopters during the unrest in Azerbaijan.

Soviet Television showed In-

terior Ministry troops, enforcing a state of emergency declared Monday, firing into the air as they rode in armoured personnel carriers near Nagorno-Karabakh.

Interior Ministry spokesman Vladimir Yanchenkov reported 56 people had been killed and 156 injured in Azerbaijan since Thursday. Two of the dead were members of law enforcement agencies.

Most of the victims were Armenians, the ministry reported.

Yanchenkov told a briefing in Moscow that authorities had recorded 167 cases of arson and what he called "pogroms."

Foreign Ministry officials told Moscow-based foreign correspondents they would not be permitted to travel to Azerbaijan or Armenia, making independent reporting impossible.

The fighting began with ethnically motivated attacks against Armenians in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. Some people reportedly were burned alive.

"We can't bring ourselves to pronounce it aloud, but what is happening now in Karabakh, in

northern Azerbaijan, can be termed unambiguously a civil war," correspondent O. Shapovalov wrote in the youth daily Kommersant near Nagorno-Karabakh.

Other reports compared the fighting to the combat of World War II.

They described "open armed clashes" in the region, with 300 gunmen fighting in one battle and trenches being dug and other fortifications built to defend villages from attack.

The flareup is the most violent between mainly Muslim Azerbaijanis and mostly Christian Armenians since their decades-old feud over Nagorno-Karabakh erupted in fighting two years ago.

Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region Azerbaijan 2,000 kilometres southeast of Moscow, is a predominantly Armenian region ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923. Both republics claim it.

Turkey said Tuesday it tightened security along the country's border with the Soviet Union. It did not elaborate. The Soviet Azerbaijanis are a Turkish-speaking ethnic group with close

cultural and historical ties to Turkey.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, seeking to defuse the worst ethnic dispute of his nearly five years in power, declared a state of emergency Monday night in Nagorno-Karabakh and nearby areas of Azerbaijan and the neighbouring republic of Armenia.

The decree empowered local officials to ban demonstrations and strikes, impose curfews, censor the media, confiscate weapons and disband nonofficial organisations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters the measures were aimed only at protecting people.

"I would not interpret this step as being at odds with glasnost and democracy," he said. "On the contrary, the step opposes anarchy."

Soviet media reported anarchy in many areas, with combatants taking hostages, and said government troops trying to get to areas of combat were delayed by crowds of people blocking roads.

ACC premiers study closer integration

BAKHDAD (Agencies) — The government leaders of the four countries in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) began talks Tuesday on closer economic integration and joint foreign policy decisions.

The four from Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and North Yemen are convening for a summit of their heads of state in Amman next month.

Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan told the opening session Tuesday that more work was needed to achieve the ACC's goal of a big regional common market.

"What we have achieved was never great significance... but the next months ahead should witness the achievements upon it to put what was agreed upon into practice," he said.

King Hussein. The message dealt with bilateral relations and issues of common interest, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Iraqi president also received heads and members of the delegations participating in the ACC meeting.

Also in Baghdad the ACC ministers of interior signed the minutes of a meeting of senior officials of the ACC foreign minister.

Participants in the meeting discussed the situation between Iraq and Iran.

The prime minister is accompanied to the Baghdad meeting by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Transport Ibrahim Ayoub, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Faris and the director of the prime minister's office.

They also reviewed the latest development in the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian uprising.

Bulgaria opposition sets its demands

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's opposition, flexing its muscles after the end of the Communists' monopoly on power, sat down with the government Tuesday and demanded its own newspaper and headquarters.

The Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), the opposition umbrella group, told the Communist government it would not begin substantive talks on the future of the country until it had written guarantees that its two demands would be met.

"As far as I know 90 per cent of buildings are state property and it seems strange to me that you cannot find one for us," UDF spokesman Georgi Spasov told the government.

UDF officials have said that the Egyptian role has replaced the other direct dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO.

Wazir, who was elected to the PLO Central Committee last August, told the Washington Post to restore the direct dialogue.

"The U.S. should reconsider its attitude towards the Palestinian peace strategy and return to the policy of the United States," said Wazir in the light of the Israeli minister's attempts to marginalize the role of the PLO in the peace process, he said.

The call by Wazir, the first woman to reach the top echelons of PLO, comes amid growing internal Palestinian pressure on the leadership to adopt a more hard-line position towards Israel and the PLO in the peace process, he said.

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Baker to meet Egyptian, Israeli ministers in bid for dialogue

Baker, who is trying to arrange talks between Palestinians and Israel leading up to elections in the Israeli-occupied territories, has conducted most of his diplomacy on the telephone to Cairo and to Israel.

Egypt is acting as a go-between for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which Israel refuses to accept as the representative of the Palestinians.

The stalemate over who is to represent the Palestinians has left Baker frustrated.

A date has yet to be set for a U.S.-sponsored meeting here be-

tween Egypt, as a representative of the PLO and Israel.

Last month Egypt accepted with reservations Baker's invitation to participate in the three-way meeting. The reservations sought some PLO control over Palestinian participation further down the road. Israel accepted the invitation with the condition that the PLO be excluded from an off-stage role.

There is no indication, however, that the Bush administration will try to exert pressure on Israel by threatening to reduce U.S. aid.

Members of an Israeli search team for

neighbourhood on the outskirts of occupied Jerusalem.

Palestinians protest random killings of 'collaborators'

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians in masks and uniforms marched through Nablus for a second day on Tuesday to oppose the unjustified killing of Palestinians suspected of helping the Israeli occupation authorities.

Residents said 30 Palestinians, calling themselves the Revolutionary Security, marched through the casbah (market) in the West Bank city. Some carried pistols, they said.

A dozen masked Revolutionary Security members staged a similar march in Nablus Monday when they fired several shots into the air, residents said.

The group vowed to fight thieves and those who abuse power, a reference to militant nationalists who have defied calls by underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising to shun rather than kill suspected collaborators.

Palestinians said the Revolutionary Security supported the mainstream Fatah group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Fatah recently issued leaflets calling for an end to collaborator killings and sealing from merchants.

Gangs killed several suspected collaborators in Nablus last year in defiance of the uprising leadership. The Israeli army killed two gang leaders and arrested several members in Nablus last month.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli security forces shot and wounded eight Palestinians in clashes with stone-throwing youths, Arab hospitals reported.

The army closed seven schools in Gaza City and two in Jabalia refugee camp, saying pupils were protesting instead of studying. The army has now shut 11 schools in the strip.

The army said troops demolished the home of an Arab in Gaza's Bani Suheila village after

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Middle East News

Several thousands demonstrate in front of police barricades

Kuwait raises option of consultative council

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The government has raised the option of a move towards democracy through Islamic-style consultation but short of reopening a parliament which has twice been dissolved by Kuwait's ruling family.

The state-run Kuwait Radio, in a commentary that is taken to reflect official thinking, said: "True democracy emanates from consultation which is purposeful dialogue, cooperation, understanding, wise decision and self denial."

"The democracy that we need in Kuwait is that type of democracy which ensures the collaboration of all parties and efforts to contain crises that may erupt... a democracy that closes ranks and consolidates national unity, the democracy of consultation as provided for in our Islamic religion."

The commentary was broadcast hours before several thousand Kuwaitis demonstrated in front of police blockades to press for the return of their country's dissolved parliament.

They had tried to reach the house of former Deputy Faissal Al Sanea for a scheduled rally, but police stretched barbed wire around several blocks to stop them.

The crowd, estimated by witnesses at three to four thousand, listened peacefully to speeches by deputies from the dissolved parliament before dispersing without incident.

Activists have been holding a series of weekly gatherings since early December to press for the return of the parliament, dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war.

The government has ruled the gatherings illegal and last week police used truncheons and stun grenades to break up a similar meeting at the home of former Deputy Ahmad Shairan.

Addressing Monday's meeting, former Speaker of Parliament Ahmad Al Saadoun said another rally would be held next Monday

at the home of former Deputy Abbas Munawar.

Around 150 women dressed in traditional black robes stood at one side of the crowd to listen to the speeches.

Elite troops in riot gear deployed in the area shortly before the speeches began kept a low profile as they helped police man the blockades.

Parliament was dissolved in 1976 when government policies came under harsh criticism from lawmakers. It was restored in 1980.

The body was again dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when Kuwait was threatened by Iran, when oil prices were collapsing and government policies again came under harsh fire by members of parliament.

The Kuwait Radio commentary was elaborating on statements by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah who, asked about the prospects of a return of parliament, told a press conference while visiting Egypt last week: "We in Kuwait believed and still believe in the feasibility of the people's participation in supervision and legislation."

He said the country was seeking a formula that would avoid a third parliamentary crisis.

His remarks, coupled with a pledge to lift press censorship also enforced when parliament was dissolved in 1986, unleashed editorials clamoring for the return of democracy.

Earlier, Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah said that Kuwait was interested in democracy but was looking for a concept other than reconstituting parliament.

The commentator gave no details about an envisioned consultative body or whether it would be elected or appointed.

But the reference to consultation and Islam appeared to be reference to the so-called Shura (consultative council) which has

been prescribed by Islam as the model for ruling.

It is a system used in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, three of the countries which Kuwait is grouped with in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Other members are Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain, like Kuwait, had a parliament elected two years after it gained independence in 1971. But it was dissolved in 1975.

An ornate building has gone up in Riyadh to house a shura council but it has yet to be formed. In all these countries, the early Islamic practice of majlis prevails, allowing inhabitants to freely call on their rulers once a week to discuss anything they wish.

In Qatar, the UAE and Oman, members of the council, between 20 to 40 in number, are appointed.

Kuwait has a population of 1.7 million, 60 per cent of whom are expatriates, with the largest minorities being Palestinians, Egyptians and Iranians.

Among published commentaries of recent days, Ahmad Al Rabat, professor of Islamic philosophy at Kuwait University and former deputy, said in a front page article in the daily Al Watan: "The world around us is moving with a speed whereby we cannot slow down... the regional situation is a new one following the cessation of the Iraq-Iraq war. The international situation is also a new one after a downfall of the theory of totalitarianism."

Ahmad Jarallah, editor-publisher of Al Seyassah, called editorially for learning a lesson from the Egyptian and Jordanian experience of "democratic openness and allowing all parties to say their opinion."

"There is no justification for fears of freedom of expression as long as there are laws which dignity of the people as is the case in advanced countries," Jarallah added.

Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, the main rightist militia, has called for a federal system in Lebanon.

"Let's go for federalism," Geagea told a large audience of university students at a cinema hall in east Beirut's Ashrafieh, district.

He said the only alternatives were partition or Syrian occupation.

"Federalism is knocking on your doors so wash away the rotten (1943) political formula... and quickly open the doors for it," Geagea urged.

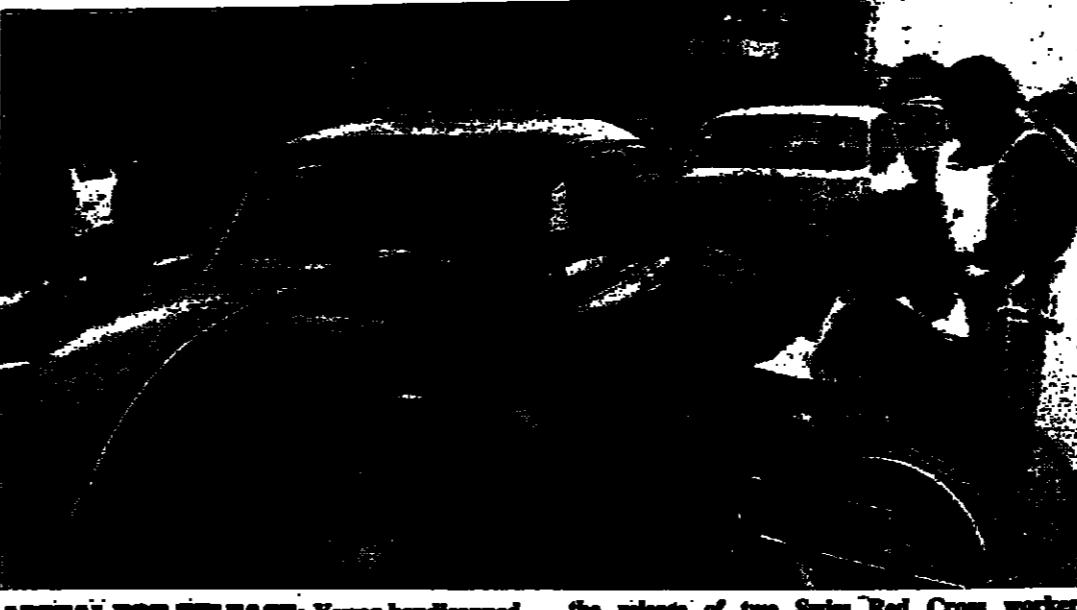
Geagea commands about 6,000 men. He seized power in the small Christian enclave north of Beirut with army commander Michel Aoun who has about 20,000 mostly Christian troops of Lebanon's army under his command.

Aoun heads a self-proclaimed government which claims to be the legitimate ruler of all Lebanon in competition with the government of President Elias Hrawi based in west Beirut. Hrawi, also a Christian, was elected by parliament but Aoun rejected the election saying it was held under Syrian pressure.

Geagea has been quoted in local papers as supporting federalism for the past several weeks but Monday's speech was the most direct call.

"Federalism will defeat partition and domination. Federalism will win and so will Lebanon. It's the shortest road to regain Lebanon," Geagea said.

Muslim leaders have criticised calls for federalism as another



APPEAL FOR RELEASE: Young kidnapped Lebanese (l), wheelchair-bound, and crutches hand out leaflets in the southern port city of Sidon calling for the release of two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped last year.

Geagea advocates federal system to settle civil strife

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, the main rightist militia, has called for a federal system in Lebanon.

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Muslim leaders have criticised calls for federalism as another

form of partition.

But Geagea argued that partition, which he rejects, means two independent states while federalism is "unity with a specific method to distribute power that would make Lebanon communities united."

Army seeks barracks

The Lebanese army has started contacts with Hezbollah to recover barracks used by the pro-Iranian militants as their headquarters in eastern Lebanon, military sources said Tuesday.

They said negotiations were still in the early stages to persuade Hezbollah to give up the barracks in the ancient town of Baalbek, 65 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

The sources said the army wanted to regain control of the barracks as part of a plan to regroup and reorganise troops loyal to Hrawi.

Media reports have speculated that several Western hostages, believed kidnapped by radicals affiliated with Hezbollah, were once detained at the barracks, Hezbollah's largest base in the Bekaa Valley.

French warplanes bombed the barracks in November 1983 to avenge a suicide attack on the headquarters of French paratroopers in Beirut one month earlier.

Hezbollah officials declined comment on contacts with the army.

Greek evacuation

Diplomats of the Greek embassy, the only Western mission holding out in west Beirut, has

quietly fled to the Christian enclave north of the capital, security sources said Tuesday.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the move was carried out "quietly over the past two weeks" after the embassy received threats from a powerful Shi'ite Muslim clan in the eastern Bekaa Valley, one of whose members is held in Greece on drug trafficking charges.

The source said the four Greek diplomats also evacuated their residences in west Beirut and moved to the port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

The last Greek diplomat left west Beirut early today after they moved all their furniture and files," the source added.

The Shi'ite clan had telephoned the embassy several times threatening to attack the offices as well as Greek diplomats if the member of the clan was not released from jail in Greece," the source added. He refused to identify the Shi'ite clan by name.

All other Western diplomatic missions evacuated west Beirut during spates of terrorist attacks, including the abduction of foreigners between 1983 and 1986.

The Greek consular section, manned only by Lebanese employees, maintained services in the 12-storey building that also housed the embassy's closed offices in the Ras Beirut district.

"We send all visa applications to Jounieh to be sorted out and approved by Greek officials," said a Lebanese employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He refused to disclose the embassy's new address or telephone numbers.

Syria protests Euphrates cut

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria has joined Iraq in expressing strong concern over diversion of the mighty Euphrates River, condemning it as a breach of international law.

Industry sources said Syria's huge hydroelectric stations in northern Syria and thousands of hectares of cultivated land would be seriously affected by water supply.

Syria had kept silent on the Turkish plan to divert the waters of the Euphrates to fill Turkey's new Ataturk Dam.

The source said Tuncel was told that Syria "rejected the principle of cutting the Euphrates River flow and considered it against international law."

The diversion of the waters that began Saturday constituted an "unjustified move which would seriously affect (Syria's) drinking water supplies and electricity generation," the source said.

Iraq, which also depends on Euphrates water for irrigation and hydroelectric power, sent Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi to Ankara to express Baghdad's concern.

Iraq said Sunday it was seeking changes in Turkey's diversion plan to reduce the damaging results for millions of its people.

But Chalabi said after meeting Turkish President Turgut Ozal Monday that he had received assurances Turkey would give due consideration to the supply of water to neighbouring states.

Syrian officials stressed that

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Dole says cut aid to Mideast

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Senator Bob Dole says the United States should cut foreign aid to Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan by five per cent and give the money to new democracies in Poland, Hungary, Panama and other countries.

Dole, a Kansas Republican who is the Senate minority leader, made the suggestion in an opinion piece published in Tuesday's editions of the New York Times. The five countries he named as targets for reductions receive more than two-thirds of U.S. foreign assistance. "Does it make sense, at this historic moment, to provide these countries practically all of four aid at the cost of foreclosing dramatically promising new aid initiatives in Eastern Europe or other important countries?" Dole wrote.

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South, North Yemen cabinets to meet

ABU DHABI (R) — South and North Yemen will hold their first joint cabinet meeting Saturday in Sanaa to discuss the planned merger of their countries, a North Yemeni minister said in remarks published Tuesday.

The meeting will focus on working out adequate structures for ministries in the two sectors and will yield an agreement to unify them.

The Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper quoted North Yemen's Information Minister Hassan Al Lazi as saying North and South Yemen signed a unification accord last December.

Siad Barre sacks 3 more top officials

MOGADISHU (R) — President Mohammad Siad Barre, who sacked his entire cabinet a week ago, has dismissed the mayor of Mogadishu and the heads of Somalia's two main banks. A statement by the presidency Monday night said Siad Omar Arfaah would replace Ali Ugas Abdulle as the capital's mayor. It also announced the replacement of the presidents of the state-run commercial and savings bank and Somali Development Bank. No reasons were given for the changes, but they are widely seen as part of Siad Barre's moves to form a government of national reconciliation.

Ozal to urge Bush to block resolution

ANKARA (AP) — President Turgut Ozal will ask U.S. President George Bush in a meeting this week to do his best to block adoption of an "Armenian genocide" resolution by the Senate, presidential palace officials said. The officials, who requested anonymity, also said they expected Bush to raise the Cyprus issue, asking Turkey to persuade the Turkish Cypriots to respond positively to U.N. sponsored efforts for a solution. Ozal flew to the United States Tuesday for a 10-day private visit and will meet with Bush at a White House luncheon Thursday.

Syrian president receives U.S. Senator

DAMASCUS (AP) — U.S. Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania met Monday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported. The agency said the talks covered "current developments in the Middle East."

U.S. said to urge Israel to end military assistance to Ethiopia

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States has urged Israel to refrain from giving military aid to the embattled Ethiopian government of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Israeli foreign ministry sources said Tuesday.

They said Israel had tried to sell 15 of its Kfir fighter-bombers to Ethiopia but Washington blocked the deal by barring the sale of weapons systems with U.S.-made components.

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There have been repeated foreign reports that Israel was sending arms and advisers to Ethiopia government forces since Addis Ababa last November restored diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. They were severed during the 1973 war.

Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa told Reuters in Nairobi Monday that two vessels had discharged arms from Israel at the Red Sea port of Asab two weeks ago.

Such reports are usually sup-

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Al Hamishar said the Israeli delegation recommended aid be delayed because Addis Ababa could fall following advances by rebels towards the capital.

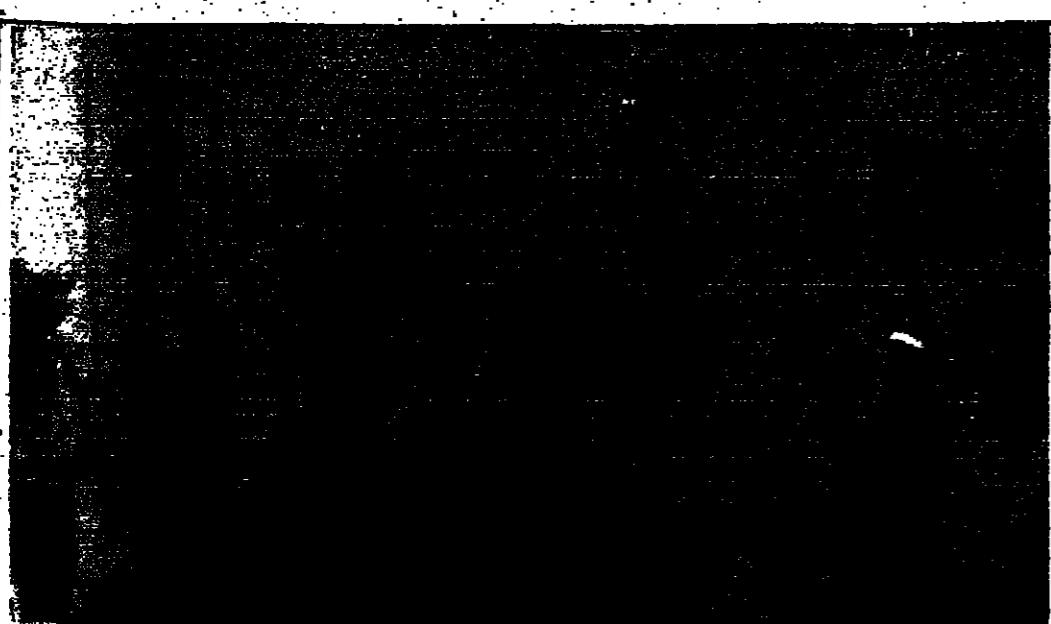
The British newspaper The Independent reported that Israel had tried to sell 15 of its Kfir fighter-bombers to Ethiopia but Washington blocked the deal by barring the sale of weapons systems with U.S.-made components.

There have been repeated foreign reports that Israel was sending arms and advisers to Ethiopia government forces since Addis Ababa last November restored diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. They were severed during the 1973 war.

Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa told Reuters in Nairobi Monday that two vessels had discharged arms from Israel at the Red Sea port of Asab two weeks ago.

Such reports are usually sup-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR



FREE PLANTING: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia participated in tree planting ceremonies in Sweileh organized by Amman's Education Department to mark Arbor Day (see photo). In Ma'an, officials and citizens participated together in planting forest and fruit trees in various parts of the governorate. Zarqa governorate decided to celebrate the occasion on Jan. 25.

Association urges ministry to help find work for geologists

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Geologists Association (JGA) urged the Ministry of Labour to try to find work for unemployed geologists through contacts with other Arab countries, the association's president, George Haddadin, said Tuesday.

The JGA also expressed hope

that the Ministry of Labour would approach local private businesses dealing with stone and timber quarries and similar industries to employ Jordanian geologists in their operations, Haddadin said after a meeting with Minister of Labour Queen Obeidat, with whom he discussed this question and general affairs of concern to

the association.

Discussion also dwelt on prospects of involving Jordanian geologists in Jordan's future mining schemes. The meeting was attended by the JGA board members, who presented their views to the minister on all these questions.

"I do hope that the news about UNRWA's intentions is not true because any reduction will have serious consequences on the allowances given to infants and pregnant women who need food supplies most," said Sayeh.

He appealed to the world com-



Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh

munity to shoulder its responsibility since, he said, it is the international community that contributed to the creation of the problem because it had been condoning Israel's illegal practices designed to prevent any peace settlement in the Middle East.

Sayeh appealed to various Arab and Islamic countries to intervene with UNRWA and stop the intended measures, which he

described as detrimental to the refugees' interests.

The protest against UNRWA's measures coincided with the opening in Tunis of a six-day meeting to discuss UNRWA's operations, developments in the Palestine conflict, and Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

Contributions by various nations to UNRWA will be discussed in detail.

The United States cut its contribution from \$67 million in 1988 to \$61 million in 1989 and \$50 million this year, citing the need to resettle refugees elsewhere in the world.

UNRWA has been in the practice of launching world-wide campaigns on an annual basis to raise sufficient funds to finance its operations.

Saw Al Shabab Arabic daily quoted UNRWA officials Tuesday as saying that there were no plans to reduce any services to the refugees in Jordan. The paper quoted officials as saying that it only plans to incorporate some of the services to save on cost of operations. This merger, they said, is deemed necessary in view of the difficulties the agency was facing at this time in view of dwindling resources.

Royal decree approves martial law amendments

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday

approving amendments to the martial law regulations for 1990. The amendments cancel the jurisdiction of military courts on issues related to crimes, possession of firearms, communism, counterfeit currency, murder and violation of the defence law and firing arms in weddings.

The Council of Ministers last month announced the amendment in response to requests by Lower House of Parliament members calling for cancellation of martial law altogether.

Another Royal Decree issued Tuesday approved of a land transport agreement between Jordan and Iraq. The agreement, which provides for facilities for transportation of goods and passengers, aims at further developing bilateral cooperation in land transport fields.

Jewish immigration to Palestine rings alarms

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Parliament should spearhead efforts worldwide to stem the flow of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to occupied Palestinian land, and can dispatch envoys and delegations to the Eastern bloc to support the Arab cause, former foreign minister and Lower House of Parliament member Taher Al Masri said Tuesday.

"The continued migration of Jews to Israel constitutes a grave danger to the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular, and therefore Arab governments must join hands and do all they can to contain such migration," Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The new regimes in Eastern Europe will no doubt listen to the Arab and Jordanian envoys, but a concerted effort is needed by all concerned parties if the Arab bid is to achieve success at the official Financial Market."

Saw Al Shabab Arabic daily reported in its evening issue that several economists including Sami Qanoun, former director of the General Budget Department, took part in the committee's session.

Qanoun said that there was urgent need to reexamine the government's 1990 public expenditure allocations and the cost of services to be offered by the central government to municipali-

ties.

Qanoun said that between 1980

and 1989 Jordan spent a total of JD 8.16 billion as follows:

Current and recurrent expenditure — JD 3.06 billion; Armed Forces — JD 1.77 billion; capital expenditure JD 3 billion.

These, he said, were covered by local revenues of JD 4.28 billion, internal and external loans of JD 1.59 billion, and financial aid of JD 1.79 billion.

Qanoun also said that during this period a total of JD 0.505 billion were drawn from the reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Masri, who chairs the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said that "confronting the emigration danger is the Arab Nation's responsibility since an increase in the manpower in Israel will increase its temptation to launch further acts of aggression on the Arab countries to settle the newcomers at their expense."

Commenting on the situation,

Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh said that the arrival of thousands of Jewish immigrants will increase the sufferings of the Palestinian people because Israel will absorb the newcomers at their expense.

Switzerland raises aid to university

AMMAN (J.T.) — Switzerland has decided to raise its contribution to the Centre for Phonetics Research at the University of Jordan from 300,000 Swiss francs to 500,000 francs, according to Dino Sciolli.

He made the announcement during a visit to the University of Jordan where he inspected the centre's facilities and met with officials including university President Mahmoud Al Samra.

Samra expressed Jordan's appreciation for the assistance, which, he said, would boost the centre's services to the Jordanian and Arab public.

The centre was opened at the

University of Jordan in January 1988 to help teach Arabic to Jordanian children and to non-native speakers, and to help rehabilitate people with speech problems.

Switzerland is supplying the equipment and has also sent a team of specialists to help instruct local staff on the centre's management and services.

Equipment installed at the centre included a computer to help carry out sound analysis and a laryngograph which helps to monitor the performance of vocal cords in voiced sounds, study psycho-linguistics and the effect of communication disorders on children's speech.

Cairo invites House to send a delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Egypt has extended an invitation to the Lower House of Parliament to send a delegation to Egypt for talks on parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Egypt.

The invitation was conveyed to House Speaker Saleh Arar at a meeting in his office with Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Mahab Muqbel who said that the visit would further boost bilateral cooperation.

Muqbel said the invitation was extended to Arar to visit Cairo at the head of a delegation from his Egyptian counterpart Rifaat Mabrouk.

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West German media urged to be accurate, balanced on Arab issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — A round-table conference of Arab news agencies and the information media of West Germany held its second session Tuesday with the main focus on the media coverage of Arab developments in West Germany.

A working paper presented by the chief editor of Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mohammad Habib, said that the Egyptian media give more than average Arab media coverage for external news, parti-

cularly in newspapers and magazines. The Egyptian press, he said, regularly carries features and commentaries on foreign affairs on all levels, and cited West German issues as an example.

Media links between Germany and the Arab World were initiated in 1938 in line with developing relations between the two sides, he said.

Samira Ajeli from the Libyan JANA news agency presented a working paper on the coverage of

Egyptian issues and developments in the West German media and asserted that Western European media in general tend to highlight negative aspects of the Arab World and lack credibility.

The representative of the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) urged the West German media to provide accurate and balanced coverage of Arab developments and cited as an example the ongoing controversy over Turkey's one-month cut-off of Euphrates River flow to Syria.

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Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, Jordanian Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Difficult time for Gorbachev

AT the end of his recent visit to Lithuania, Mikhail Gorbachev said the most stupendous and daring thing yet in his career when he declared that he was willing to entertain multi-party system of government for the Soviet Union. The Soviet leader might have said these words in desperation after having failed to convince the Lithuanian leaders to go back on their decision to break away from Moscow. This is not to mention that the Soviet president is beleaguered by many challenges and dangers the least of which are not only the widening turbulences in the south and west of the country. The big question remains whether Gorbachev can salvage the situation for himself and his perestroika and glasnost after all the bold concessions that he has been making within and outside his country. Having the Pandora box opened and the genie out of the jar, the Soviet leader seems to have reached the point of no return. What is even more ominous is the fact that the events unfolding in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe have strained his capacity to cope with them.

Now there is a growing fear that the very survival of Gorbachev is at stake. What dangers to his own career loom in the horizon or worse still in the dark is something that the international community must be most concerned about. And what words of advice can all governments truly concerned about the continuing success of Gorbachev's imaginative reforms offer to Moscow at this very critical juncture must be uppermost on the minds of leaders everywhere.

To be sure one hopes that the Soviet leader perseveres with his new ideas. The fact that he is beginning to reflect on introducing pluralism to the Soviet system of government is most encouraging. But will he be able to continue this road of openness and still deal effectively and realistically with the mounting wave of nationalism in and around the southern and western wings of the Soviet Union is something else. Will Moscow ever go to the extent of viewing its long range interest as being better served without maintaining a mosaic country composed of so many nationalities that have very little in common? These are very difficult questions and the answers to them are even harder. Nevertheless it would be presumptuous on the part of the concerned international community to preempt the thinking of Moscow on how best to deal with the new situation in the Soviet Union. And as long as the Soviet Union has chosen the democratic way to address its contemporary conflicts and challenges, there will always be hope that the answers to all such issues could be just around the corner.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday commended the leadership of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan which have worked hard over the past year to implement the principles and goals of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) created last February in Baghdad. The paper said the leadership succeeded in the first year of the ACC life to carry out considerable work, leading towards integration among their countries through meetings held at the ministerial and committee levels. The paper referred to the higher ministerial committee meeting grouping the heads of government which is being convened now in Baghdad, and said that it will review past year's work within the ACC group and pave the way for an ACC summit in Amman next month. The various agreements and discussions that aimed to boosting cooperation among the four countries and the different plans for future action are expected to be summed up at the Baghdad meeting which will be considered as a session for evaluation and assessment of the past year's achievements. The paper paid tribute to the leaders of the four ACC nations for creating the very positive atmosphere that enabled the ACC's various agencies to forge ahead with fruitful work and attain success.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday criticizes political factions in Lebanon which, he says, continue to place obstacles in the path of implementing the Arab League mediation mission and the Taef Resolutions passed by the Lebanese parliament. Abdallah Rashed Oun draws attention to the fact that Michel Aoun and his group are living in the past in the period of the Phoenicians and totally disregarding the developments around Lebanon and ignoring the Arab World in which Lebanon is situated. He says that as the three-member Arab League mediation committee Tuesday resumes its mission to bring peace to the embattled nation, Aoun and his group continue to oppose the unanimous agreement of the Lebanese parliament and the will of the Arab Nation. What is more, Israel continues to occupy parts of southern Lebanon and to cause tension and conflicts within Lebanon itself, the writer notes. He says that like Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon being country bordering on Israel, it has been affected by the Zionist aggression, but due to the lack of cohesion among its various groups, if faced a civil war and continues to face a gloomy future due to the obstinacy of extremist factions.

Al Dostour daily commented Tuesday on Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territories, and said that the Israeli leaders faced with the influx of great numbers of Jews are now planning to expand their aggression and occupation plans in the Arab region. The paper said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been lately talking about creating a greater Israel to absorb the immigrants from the Soviet Union, and about holding to the occupied Arab lands where the first newcomers will be settled. This fact, the paper said, should open the eyes of the Arab leaders who should take note of this looming danger and plan a counter-action. The nearly one million new immigrants could prompt Israel to make out of them a nucleus for a new wave of expansion and a new aggression on the Arabs, said the paper. The Arab leaders, the paper continued, should now approach the Soviet Union and draw its attention to the negative consequences of such migration which can never help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel's strategic value: will it lessen with Soviet-U.S. thaw?

By Nicolas B. Tatre
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — As Soviet-American tensions ease, Israel's value as a strategic ally is being questioned, and Israeli officials are concerned this could lead to cuts in military aid.

Mark Heller, a senior analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the Soviets were likely to be less supportive of radical Arab governments and no longer viewed as a source of instability.

"As the perceived Soviet threat to the Middle East declines, so may the strategic value of Israel in the eyes of American policymakers," he said.

A major argument in providing Israel with \$1.8 billion a year in military aid has been its value as a strategic ally, one that could pre-position equipment, supply the U.S. Sixth Fleet and be counted on in a showdown.

"There is no longer a common adversary," said Heller, suggesting aid cuts could ultimately result.

More conservative analysts dis-

agree. They suggest Israel could become an even greater asset if the United States is forced to close down bases in Europe but wants to retain the ability to defend its interests against governments like Libya and the Islamic republic in Iran.

"Expansionist powers in the region could threaten the free flow of oil and maritime trade routes. These are constant American interests that will have to be defended even if no Soviet threat is perceived," said Dore Gold, also of the Jaffee Centre.

One sign of continuing U.S. reliance came last week when U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz expressed interest in having access to bases in Israel, according to sources who demanded they not be identified.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is in Washington this week for talks with U.S. officials on future military aid, said one basic element has changed. He said the superpowers no longer fear a Middle East war would grow into a U.S.-Soviet confrontation as happened during

the 1973 Mideast war.

The Soviet Union, the main military supplier to Arab states, threatened to introduce troops to bolster the Arab side during the 1973 war, and then U.S. President Richard Nixon put American troops on nuclear alert.

"In the past, many books were written that tried to describe the Middle East as the focal point from which the third world war would start, this fear is over," Rabin said in a recent speech to a conference of visiting Jewish journalists.

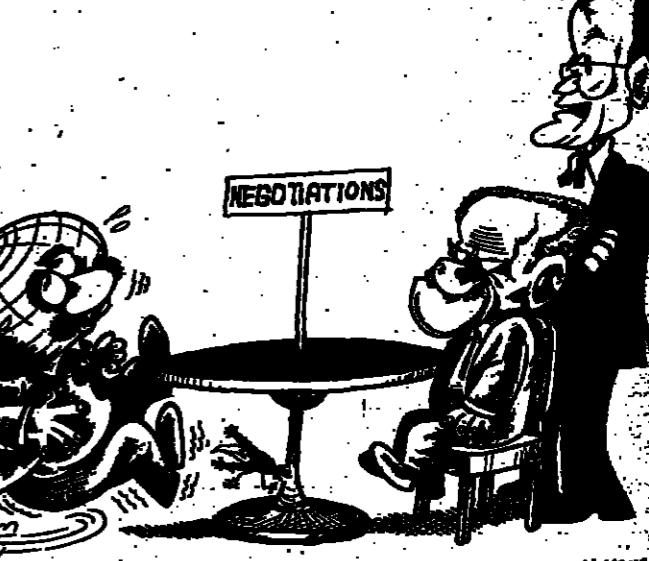
Less worried about a confrontation and tied up with their own arms negotiations, Rabin said the Soviets and Americans were not as eager to tackle intractable regional conflicts like the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Whether one or the other of the superpowers will realize that the gap between the positions of the two sides is too wide, they tell the two parties 'go to hell. You want to quarrel. You want to use violence. Do it until one of you, or both of you, will become tired.'"

Rabin has reportedly set up a task force to study the impact of U.S. defense cuts on Israel.

An aide to Finance Minister Shimon Peres said in the past two weeks the real value of aid to Israel declined about 5 per cent because of inflation.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he suggested the thaw in cold war attitudes may be a



factor in Washington's decision not to compensate Israel for the loss.

"I will not tell you I don't foresee any new thinking in the United States," said the official, who argued that Israel could avoid any threatened aid cuts by moving quickly to get involved in the peace process.

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson of California, the senior Republican on

the Senate Armed Forces Committee, told reporters during a visit here last week that Israel remained a strategic ally and aid should not be cut because of "premature euphoria" over changes in the Soviet bloc.

"I think there are a number of people who are eagerly anticipating a peace dividend that may not be as large as they think," he said.

plies of this indifference, which most people recognize and see as something that will take years to handle." Havel showed in his trip to the Slovak capital Bratislava on Jan. 11 that he is well aware of this.

There is also a possible city-country divide. "In the country-side, a lot of local party bosses still think they are very important," one Western diplomat commented.

There are signs that some country people are frightened by recent events. "Why are you people of the country's past, one man explained why even the most pessimistic person must remain positive.

Havel himself has paid tribute to the "enormous human, moral and spiritual potential" in his countrymen "that slumbered under the enforced mask of apathy." But, he added, "our main enemies today are our own bad traits (such as) indifference to the common good."

There are still plenty of exam-

ples of this indifference, which most people recognize and see as something that will take years to handle." Havel showed in his trip to the Slovak capital Bratislava on Jan. 11 that he is well aware of this.

On the radio and television, the story of the revolution is told over and over again to reassure people that their world really did turn upside-down after the big pro-democracy demonstration on November 17.

On a side note that reminds one of the country's past, one man explained why even the most pessimistic person must remain positive.

"I simply couldn't live through another '68," he said, referring to the hopes for democracy briefly raised by the "Prague spring" under Alexander Dubcek, only to be crushed by a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion later that year.

"If we lost it all again I would commit suicide."

In troubled East Europe, Czechoslovakia remains optimistic

By Susan Greenberg
Reuter

PRAGUE — "I keep thinking I'll wake up and it will be a dream. I walk past the posters of Havel and ask my daughter to pinch my arm, to tell me it's true."

Comments such as this one from Václav Havel, a teacher, are common in Prague. But of all the East bloc countries caught up in the whirl of radical change, Czechoslovakia appears to show the most confidence.

Romania is reeling from a wave of violence, East Germany worried that real change will still be snatched away and Poland and Hungary face deep economic crisis.

But the very caution which helped keep Czechoslovakia one of the most conservative Communist states in the East bloc now stands it in good stead as a basis for solid change. People are aware of the problems ahead but

their traditional pessimism has given way to real hope.

There are several factors behind this. There is a strong feeling of pride that people found their own strength and brought about real changes at the top, not just "the same people saying different things."

In Václav Havel, the leading ex-dissident and playwright, the country has a unique national figurehead in the tradition of the republic's founding father, Tomáš Masaryk.

His election on December 29 represented a reversal of fortunes, with the ex-prisoner replacing his jailer. He is also someone whom people trust as uninterested in personal gain or power.

Havel has said he wants to quit after elections planned for June, but his supporters may not let him.

The powerful Civic Forum opposition movement, which led the fight to topple the Communist party from power in November

and December, is a focus for the country's non-partisan impulse.

This impulse is reflected by the lack of vindictiveness being shown towards former Communist leaders and the concern for legality among those pursuing their past crimes, such as chief prosecutor Pavel Šír.

Visitors have noticed the mood of positive calm. A visiting U.S. congressman, Tom Lantos, told journalists last week: "I am impressed with the quality of the people...their attitude is going to help bring the country back."

There are, of course, real problems.

"The new government is going to have to take some unpopular decisions which may lead to unemployment and rising prices," said a Western diplomat. "People have had a lot of social guarantees and may not be willing to give them all up for the risks of the free market."

The controversy over a possible apology to the Sudeten Ger-

mans expelled after World War II also points to problems of facing up to the past.

"If we can't face responsibility for that, we won't be able to face responsibility for our complicity in the last 40 years," said one Czechoslovak.

Civic Forum is powerful but is still unsure how to proceed as a "non-party party." Young people were attracted to the unity of a fight against the Communists but the present idealism will eventually have to give way to normal politics.

National differences loom, with organisations deciding whether to form or reform as federal groups or split up into Czech and Slovak parts. Leading politicians such as Christian dissident Jan Carnogursky, for example, will have to decide whether to be regional or national.

There are two Czechs in the population for every Slovak, and as another diplomat noted: "The

would set himself up for failure in Lithuania. It appears now he intended to demonstrate that even secessionists — if peaceful — will be fought with reason and logic, not tanks and troops.

And just as significantly, his whole nation watched the faceoff.

At every stop on Gorbachev's three-day tour of Lithuania, he encountered people shouting "freedom," and waving placards calling for independence for the tiny Baltic republic. Lithuania was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 after a mere two decades as a sovereign state.

It was obvious even before Gorbachev left Moscow that he had no chance of achieving his assigned task of persuading Lithuanian Communists to reverse their decision to break with the national Soviet party and support independence for Lithuania.

Each night on the national television news, millions of Soviets saw Gorbachev confront the demonstrators with humour or with

iron fist.

Once carefully selected crowds would have been on hand to cheer the Soviet leader and any open dissenters would have been hustled away by police. On this trip, Gorbachev treated yelling protesters as if they were an ordinary part of political life.

Perhaps from now on, they will be.

It seemed unlikely that Gorbachev, who has demonstrated his extraordinary political acuity in redefining the postwar world,

allowed into Punjab to investigate widespread allegations of abuse.

Gandhi rebuffed each request, saying the Indian legal system has competent to deal with any charges. The new administration of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is reviewing the question, but has not reached a decision, officials said.

State officials decline comment on specific allegations and say there are no plans to investigate past abuses.

"The policy is not to look into the past. The new stand is to keep within the law," a senior Punjab official said.

Police last year reported more than 2,000 deaths they attributed to the campaign by militants for an independent Sikh homeland

they call Khalistan (land of pure). Local journalists mistrust the figures. "Half the time we have no idea of what really happened. We have been misled by the police so many times we are truly cynical," said one.

The violence from both sides leaves people scared.

"Everybody knows the vigilantes have not been paid since V.P. Singh came to power and everybody knows they have got into the extortion business," said a Sikh businessman in Amritsar.

"When you get a letter demanding money on, say, Bhindranwale Tiger Force-headed note-paper, you don't know whether it's come from the boys (militants) or who it's come from. You pay anyway," he said.

Militant kidnappings for ran-

In Lithuania, Gorbachev faced protesters—and took them in stride

By Ann Israe

The Associated Press

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. — President Mikhail Gorbachev faced protesters on his home soil for the first time last week.

And just as significantly, his whole nation watched the faceoff.

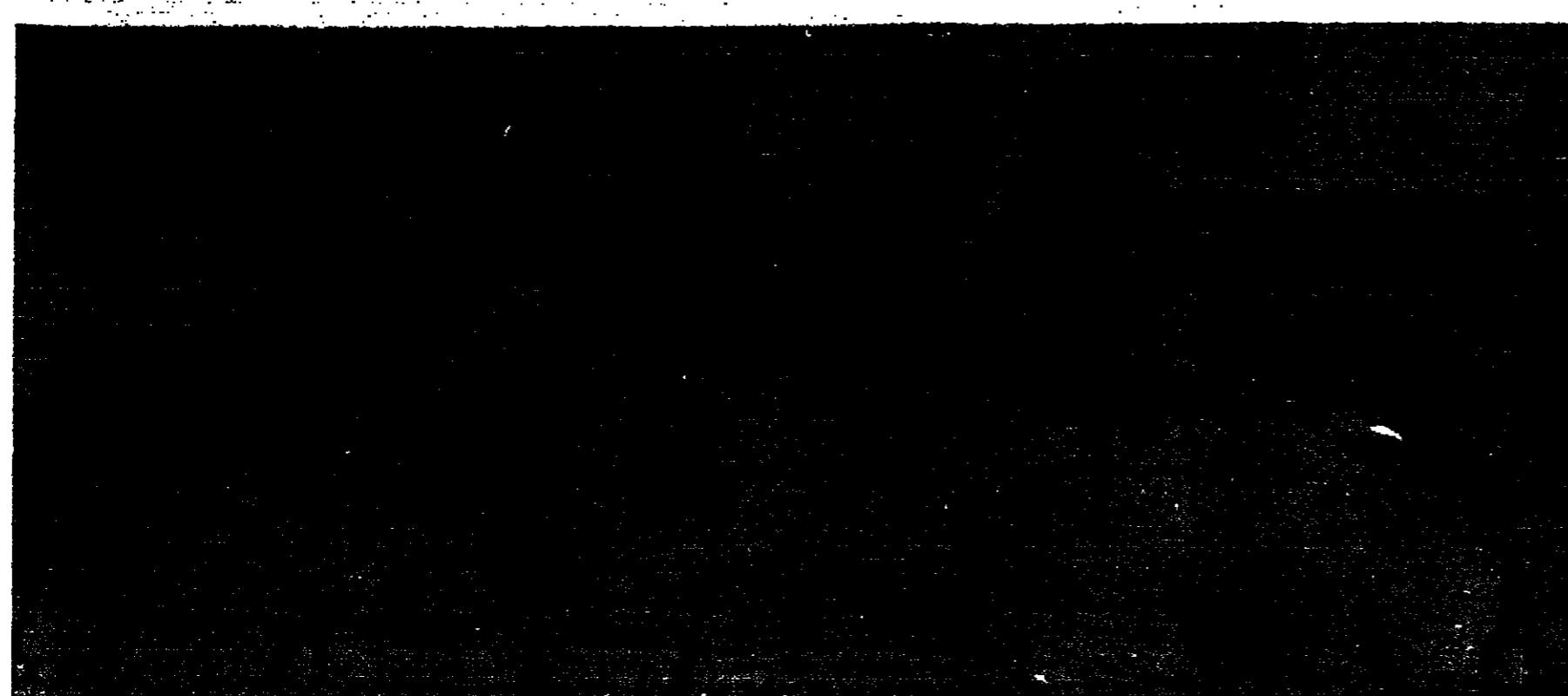
At every stop on Gorbachev's three-day tour of Lithuania, he encountered people shouting "freedom," and waving placards calling for independence for the tiny Baltic republic. Lithuania was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 after a mere two decades as a sovereign state.

It was obvious even before Gorbachev left Moscow that he had no chance of achieving his assigned task of persuading Lithuanian Communists to reverse their decision to break with the national Soviet party and support independence for Lithuania.

Each night on the national television news, millions of Soviets saw Gorbachev confront the demonstrators with humour or with

iron fist.

Behind closed doors with Lithuanian officials, according to some of those present, Gorbachev kept hearing the same refrain: "Independence is independence."



The all-women crew of Maiden (above) fight sea and wind and steer their ship (right) to victory.

Maiden's fantastic voyage

By Louise Chunn

IT WAS getting towards midnight. The launch had passed Rangitoto, the extinct volcano that rises out of the middle of Auckland Harbour, and was heading north. Perched on a plastic stool, Pat Edwards — mother of British yachtswoman Tracy Edwards — lit another cigarette and gripped the side of the boat with her free hand. She hated the water and her knuckles turned white with tension. "I mustn't let Tracy see me smoking. I've given up really — I used to smoke 80 a day, you see. Of course, she smokes, but it's different for Mmm, isn't it? Oh God, I'm so nervous. Listen to me!"

From the upper deck, a voice called down. "Look! I can see them!" And, yes, a tiny speck of red light at the top of the mast was just visible, coming silently through the blackness of sea and sky. The boat raced to meet it and a rousing, tearful chorus of cheers greeted the all-women crew of Maiden as she reached New Zealand at the end of the third leg of the nine-month long, 33,000-mile Whitbread Round The World Race.

They flashed their lights, shouted a greeting, but it wasn't yet over. There were still a few miles to go and Maiden was racing. While the supporters' boats — now numbering half a dozen or so — were lit up and crowded with boozey, sunburned well-wishers, on Maiden it was dark and the crew were determinedly undistracted until — bang! — they crossed the finish line. Now they could start to celebrate, and two cases of ice-cold cans of beer were heaved on to the deck, along with the straws from Pat Edwards had picked for them earlier in the day.

There were a few miles between the finish line and the reception area at Princess Wharf and the sails were pulled down while Maiden gently motored around. By now, it was one o'clock on a Monday morning. There had been huge crowds to welcome the larger, New Zealand-owned maxi several days before, but no one was expecting much at this time of night. Yet the novelty of an all-women crew taking first prize for their division was too much to miss. A crowd of around 10,000 — in a city of just under one million — was gathered on the wharf. Many of them were women, some holding bouquets and gifts for the crew.

Pat Edwards was not the only one in tears. Her daughter — 5ft 2in, dimpled and 27 — had not only skippered Maiden to win two legs in Division D of the Whitbread, but had proved, in the face of enormous scepticism, that women can sail. And, as if anything more was needed, two days later, back on Princess Wharf, she received the trophy for British Yachtsman of the Year, the first time it has been awarded to a woman.

If you're looking for positive stories about women's achievements, Maiden is a beauty. It has all the elements — a determined woman who is told she cannot do something because of her sex, a narrow-minded male establishment and a few true believers who never doubted that justice would be done.

Born in Reading, brought up in South Wales, Tracy Edwards got her first job on a boat when she was 16. She worked for a while in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, as a cook or crew member, catering to lotus eaters, but soon switched gear to racing. She was sufficiently experienced to sail in the 1985/86 Whitbread, first on Norsk Data GB, then Atlantic Privateer, where she was the cook for three legs, including one they won.

At the end of the race she approached Rear Admiral Charles William, chairman of the race committee of the Whitbread.

by Pierre Fehlmann in the 1981/82 Whitbread.

To rouse up some more publicity, the Duchess of York was invited to name the refitted boat in the summer of 1988. In his hotel room in London, Ali Ghandour, then chairman of Royal Jordanian, happened to catch the news item on TV. And, as is the way with these things, it clicked. Royal Jordanian offered financial support for Maiden's first real race: a 3,800 mile crossing from Cadiz in Spain to Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.

It was the first time an all-women crew had sailed in such a long off-shore ocean race. They were competing with yachts from all over the world, 11 of them Whitbread entries, more than half of them multi-million-dollar maxis (the \$10 boats in the top division). Edwards' crew left them gasping by finishing in second place overall and, more importantly, first of all the Whitbread entries on corrected time (where weight and length of the boat are taken into consideration).

This clinched the deal with Royal Jordanians as sponsors but didn't silence those who believed that women not only couldn't but shouldn't be allowed to sail the Whitbread. Former Guardian journalist Tim Madge, who is writing a book with Edwards about Maiden, remembers: "There was unquestionably a view when this project got started that not only was there no place for women on racing yachts, but that for women to sail in Whitbread could be fatal. This sort of talk undoubtedly affected their progress in getting sponsorship, but it was never true. It was simply men's perception of women and once you cut out the prejudice, you could see that it was possible."

In the three years following her announcement of the project, Edwards had been flooded with applications from women all over the world wanting to join the crew. Several had joined her in Hamble as early as 1987, but it wasn't until a week before departure — Sept. 2, 1989 — that the last member was finalised. "I had to get the combination right. How we got on as a group was vitally important. I sacked one of the crew just before we left because she was causing all sorts of problems. I wouldn't change one

of the crew I have now though."

En masse, kitted out in pink shorts and white T-shirts, they're a stunning lot, though not perhaps in the way that some might expect. From Britain, France, Finland, the U.S., Ireland, Holland and New Zealand, they're suntanned and well-toned, but not particularly muscular or meaty. "We joke to each other about not putting on weight when we're sailing," said watch captain Dawn Riley. "Or you'll give the public what they expect — a pack of giant lesbians! I don't know why they should think that, anyway. Men sail together and they're not gay — are they?"

Riley believes the strength factor is overrated in sailing. "I'm probably the strongest one on the boat, and when I sail with guys I'm generally in the stronger half of the crew, but sailing is about much more than simply how big your muscles are."

Riley's been sailing since she was one month old — "My baptism party was held on a boat on Lake St. Clair in Detroit" — and, at 25, is one of the most experienced on board. She's used to sailing with men, but enjoys the camaraderie of an all-women crew. "There are differences — we can sunbathe nude and sail topless when we're off-watch. You wouldn't want to do that

when men were around. And we have an enclosed heads (toilet)

while most all-male crews just have a toilet sitting there or go up on deck and use the transom."

Claire Russell, the boat's 26-year-old doctor, reveals even more secrets of the long-distance sailor. "I talk to the doctors on the other boats (there are 23 in the race) and we compare notes. The only real difference is that on Maiden we use a lot of creams because the girls want to look after their skin. And girls tend to keep themselves cleaner, I think, so we don't get problems some of the men get, like fungal infections and abscesses."

Little things like clean clothes and hair lose their importance when you're sailing among icebergs or sailing at 35 knots. Russell says that Saturdays became the day she changed her knickers, by throwing them over the side. Storage is severely limited and everything on board is subject to weight restriction.

When they're coming into port, though, vanity's permissible, said youngest crew member Jeni Mundy. "Everyone is allocated a jug of fresh water to wash their hair, shave their legs, clean themselves up. It may be macho for the men to come in looking all burnt and wind-blown, but we don't want to look like that."

Russell and Mundy hope that Maiden's success will open up more racing yachts to women, but can also see some logic in single-sex sailing. "The conditions are so cramped and you're living under such strain that you do your best to avoid any problems. And mixing the sexes can lead to difficulties — whether it's sexual attraction or jealousy or competitiveness," says Mundy.

"And being all girls is fun. We've become very close, there's an awful lot of support. If something goes wrong the other girls will sympathise — you know, 'He wasn't worth it, anyway. You deserve better.' It's very sisterly," says Russell.

Boyfriends and husbands can cause problems. "You might fall madly in love with someone, then never see them again because you never end up in the same port at the same time. But that's what this lifestyle is about. It has its negative and positive points," says Mundy who, incidentally, was greeted at Princess Wharf by a lovesick member of Steinlager 2, the leader in the maxi division.

Tracy Edwards is engaged to a property developer. He flew to Fremantle at the end of the second leg, but said Edwards, it was not an easy reunion. "It seems to be OK for women to follow the guys about, but not the other way around. He's very proud of me, but he felt uncomfortable from proving them wrong."

Chauvinistic words are being eaten by yachting pundits, or at least they're making the right noises in public. But, says Tracy Edwards, it's not giving her the enormous pleasure she'd anticipated from proving them wrong. "I find there's no need to be smug about it. I'm just happy I've changed their minds and I do believe Maiden has done that. Maybe not overnight, but I think our success will mean that there will be more women sailing on racing boats. Maybe not in the next Whitbread, but it will happen. It's got to. Because it just wasn't fair that women should be excluded from something we enjoy doing so much" — The Guardian.

As perhaps it's just as well. The pressure's even stronger now they're 16 hours in the lead. "When we won the Punta del Este in Uruguay to Fremantle in Australia, we were so wrapped up with layer upon layer that it took the girls on watch about half an hour to dress and undress.

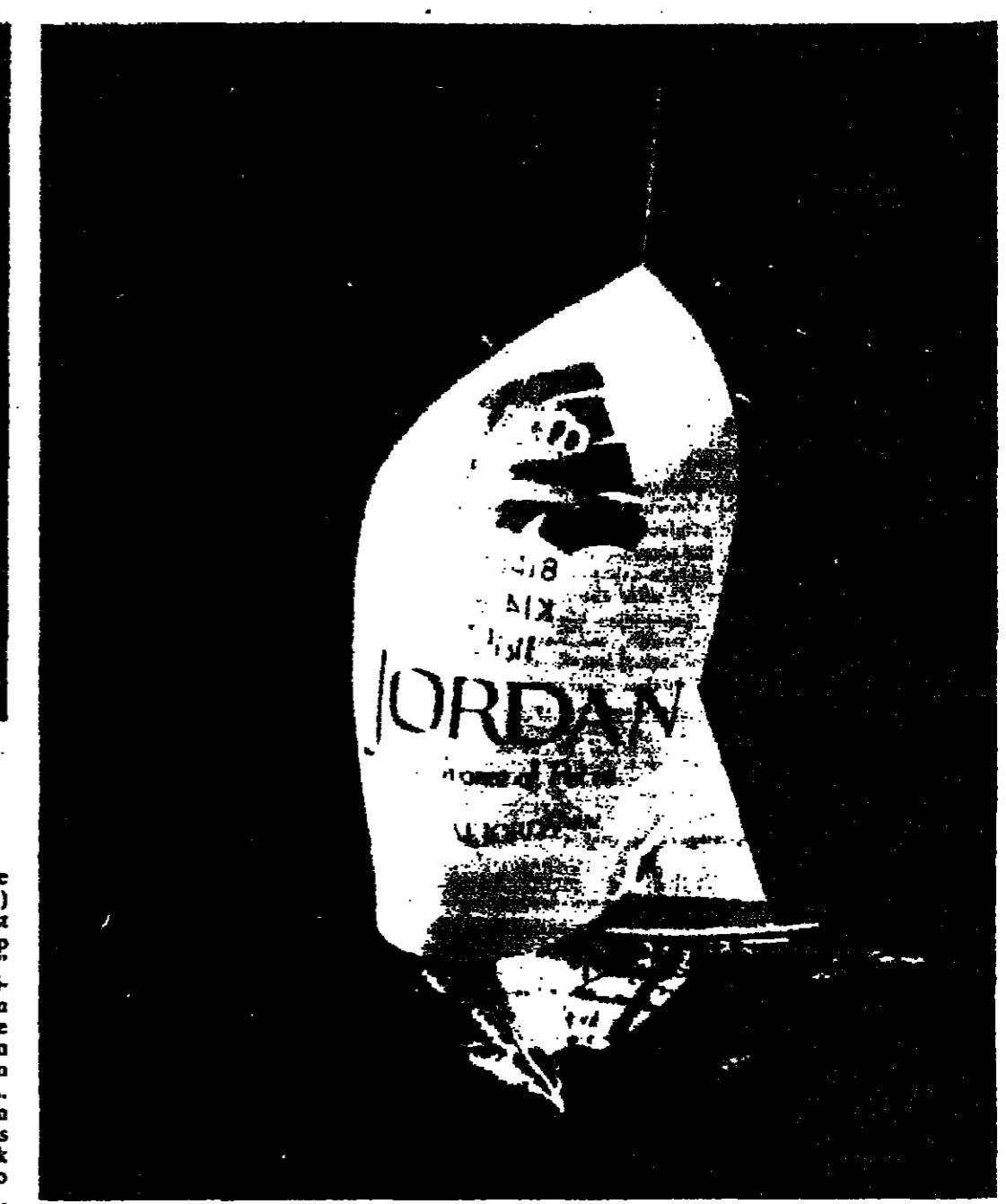
That left them with only three hours to eat and sleep before they had to be on deck again," said Edwards.

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As the navigator as well as skipper, Edwards takes a cerebral rather than muscular approach to sailing, studying the weather and wind, juggling the shortest course against the fastest speed. And says Tim Madge, it works. "The women on Maiden really think. They're not so bothered about appearing macho. Perhaps they take the sails in a bit earlier, but

Ship's doctor Claire Russell



Youngest crew member Jeni Mundy

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

CEAU plans seminar in May

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) is currently contacting a number of Arab economic experts to participate in a seminar due to be held in Amman next May. The three-day seminar will discuss working papers on development and Arab economic integration in addition to the influence of the international economic variables on the economic situation in the Arab World. Taking part in the seminar will be Jordanian experts who will discuss the economic development in Jordan and its relatedness to the Arab economic integration.

Morning Star appeals for cash

LONDON (AP) — Britain's communist daily newspaper, The Morning Star, published a front-page appeal to its readers Monday for £150,000 (\$240,000) cash to buy new equipment. The paper was "the only solution to the enormous crisis faced by the paper as the result of the drastic halving of the copies previously ordered by the Soviet Union," the newspaper said. The Morning Star's Soviet distributor, the Mezhdunarodnaya Company, halved its daily order of 12,000 copies on Dec. 25 after the Communist Party ordered it to meet efficiency guidelines. The tabloid, which marked its 60th anniversary this month, will lose an estimated \$400,000 pounds (\$650,000) of its annual income of £1.5 million (\$2.5 million) because of the Soviet cut.

EC unemployment declines

BRUSSELS (R) — The overall unemployment rate in the European Community (EC) dipped below nine per cent last November for the first time since 1982, the European Commission has said. The commission, the EC's executive body, said in a statement that a fall in the jobless rate from 9.7 to 8.9 per cent over the first 11 months of last year was a further sign of healthy Community economic growth. "This shows that the investment and growth-oriented policies of the Community are working... the aim of full employment is still far out but I am particularly happy that youth unemployment is falling even faster," said Henning Christophersen, commissioner for economic and financial affairs.

Syria strikes oil

DAMASCUS (AP) — The French Total Oil Company has made a new strike in the Wadi Qubaid region of northeast Syria, an official source at the ministry of petroleum and minerals reported Monday.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave no details of the strike such as the depth it was made or the daily oil flow. But he said Total was continuing prospecting in the region to assess the size of the discovery.

Total is one of 10 foreign companies involved in exploration and development of Syria's oil fields.

Crude oil production is currently running at around 350,000 barrels a day and is expected to soon reach 400,000 barrels daily when the Al Tayyani and Al Azba fields in the northeast go on stream.

Production is double domestic requirements and last year Syria became a net exporter for the first time, with revenues of \$550 million forecast this year.

That is a major shot in the arm for the flagging economy.

The source reported that the Al Furat Petroleum Co., in which the state-run Syrian Petroleum Co. has a 50 per cent stake, West Germany's Demmer 18.75 per cent and U.S. Shell and Royal Dutch Shell with 15.625 per cent each — is conducting an assessment of the new field.

The source said the Syrian field in the northeastern Aqed Al Sham region has reached the initial phase of production. He said output will reach 30,000 barrels a day of high-quality, low-sulfur crude when development is completed.

During the second half of last year, there were many new oil finds which are in the process of being developed, he said, but gave no details.

He predicted there will be more oil and gas strikes in the coming months amid widespread exploration.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, January 16, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	112.7
550	658.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	451.6
1000.2	1051.7	Dutch guilder	339.6
382.5	382.7	Swedish crown	105.8
430.1	434.4	Italian lira (for 100)	51.5
		Belgian franc (for 10)	184.3
		Belgian franc (for 10)	186.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6503/13	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1632/42	Canadian dollar
1.7103/10	Deutschmarks	
1.9285/95	Dutch guilder	
1.5278/88	Swiss francs	
35.82/87	Belgian francs	
5.8075/25	French francs	
1272/1273	Italian lire	
145.45/55	Japanese yen	
6.1910/60	Swedish crowns	
6.5690/40	Norwegian crowns	
6.6210/60	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	414.00/414.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed weaker after nervous trading, pulled down by a heavy fall in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries index fell 6.3 to 1,675.4.

TOKYO — Worries about falling bond prices intensified, sending the Nikkei index plunging more than 800 points before a partial recovery at the close. The index ended at 36,850.36, down 666.41 or 1.78 pct.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index tumbled 34.90 to close at 2,751.79 in response to sharp declines in Wall Street and Tokyo.

SINGAPORE — Share prices retreated in the afternoon to close broadly lower in line with sharp losses on the Tokyo bourse. The Straits Times index fell 13.04 to end at 1,512.50.

BOMBAY — Shares fell for the second day on fears of heavy taxes in the budget for fiscal 1990/91, ending March.

FRANKFURT — Shares dived more than three per cent amid concern that reforms in Eastern Europe could come to a halt if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is forced out of office. The DAX index of 30 blue chips fell 52.93 to close at 1,768.68.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower on profit taking after the market took its lead from weak German shares. The SPI index fell 17.4 points to 1,122.5.

PARIS — French share prices fell two per cent to the day's low at mid-session, continuing Monday's slide in reaction to sharp drops on Wall Street and Tokyo, but volumes remained thin. The CAC-40 index was 40.46 lower at 1,922.43 by 1230 GMT.

LONDON — Shares moved off day's lows in late trading as Wall Street defied market's worst fears falling only modestly in early trade. By 1544 GMT the FTSE was 27.3 easier at 2,338.9.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks remained lower across the board, but blue chips were finding technical support at moderately lower levels. The Dow was off at 2649.

Iraq shifts refined oil products exports to crude

DUBAI (R) — Iraq has cut exports of refined oil products built up during and after the Gulf war as its vast crude export capacity returns to peacetime normality, oil traders said.

They said the move was a major policy change for Iraq which relied heavily on product sales when the eight year conflict with Iran hit crude exports as a source of sorely-needed cash to fund its war machine.

Iraq devised tortuous methods for exporting refined products to lessen the risk of Iranian attacks during the war which ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988, and expanded afterwards because of war damage.

But it has become just too costly to truck through Jordan and Turkey and use small tankers from the Jebel Ali port in Dubai, other traders said.

Iraq was trucking products through Turkey and Jordan during the war, but now it has surplus crude export capacity," an oil analyst based in the Gulf said.

Oil industry sources said Iraq has stopped trucking products through Jordan and is placing out products exports through Turkey.

"Iraq wants to close down its small refineries and plans to use

whatever it produces at home," a Gulf-based oil trader said. There may be a small surplus of fuel oil after the bigger refineries have satisfied domestic needs, he added.

Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) has reduced first-quarter naphtha exports to three Japanese companies from the Jebel Ali port in Dubai, other traders said.

Iraq reopened its 140,000 b/d Basra refinery early last year after extensive repairs.

Last week Iraq officially inaugurated its main crude oil export pipeline through Saudi Arabia, which has a design capacity of 1.65 million b/d.

Oil industry sources said Iraq's current crude export capacity though pipelines via Turkey, Saudi Arabia and from its partially repaired Gulf deep water Al Bakr oil terminal is about five million b/d.

Its sales quota of crude and refined products determined by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) totals currently 3.14 million b/d.

Such a three-way dialogue was needed in part because Arab and other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might not themselves be able to raise the money needed to restore their oil output capacity to meet rising demand.

"I would like to say that if no action is taken now, the world may well be heading towards another damaging oil crisis," Yamani said in a speech.

As an example of the problem, he cited reports that it would cost Saudi Arabia \$30 billion to get its output capacity back to 10 million barrels daily.

Industry sources say it is now around 6.5 million.

Much OPEC capacity rusted away in idle oil fields during the glut of the mid-1980s when sky-high prices depressed world demand. Weaker prices have prompted a recovery since then and prices have headed back up — by 25 per cent since last autumn.

Yamani said OPEC producers may need the expertise and perhaps the investment of Western oil companies. Consumer governments might possibly back or even provide loans.

Ex-British prime minister Edward Heath is on the governing board of Yamani's new, non-profit making study centre.

An advisory council includes ex-chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khidha Al Sabah, former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker and Soviet academician Alexander Arbatov.

The centre will hold seminars for select participants and circulate in-depth reports. Two have already been commissioned, on East Europe and on the production capacity of the Gulf.

Yamani, who has substantial private means, said finance was no problem.

Saudi Arabia's oil minister from 1962 until 1986, Mecca-born Yamani became for millions of people the embodiment of Arab oil power and the chief architect of dramatic changes in the global economy caused by the oil price shocks of the 1970s.

Brokers welcomed the extra hour, saying it helped them handle the scramble for shares by investors who believe West German companies are best placed to benefit from the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

Official trade now begins one hour earlier at 1030 local time (0930 GMT) and ends as usual at

Jordan phosphate exports booming

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, the world's third biggest rock phosphate exporter, earned a record \$434 million from its highest-ever exports of the fertiliser base last year.

"1989 was a record year from all angles," Wasef Azar, managing director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), told Reuters in an interview.

He said the company would increase earnings this year and hoped to boost exports to Eastern European countries trying to implement reforms that would lead to freer markets.

"We have to see what happens in Eastern Europe. We could have a better situation there," Azar said.

The phosphate industry, helped by rising world prices, is a bright spot in Jordan's recession-hit economy.

Central bank figures show that sales of phosphate rock and fertiliser derivatives produced by JPMC accounted for 44 per cent of Jordanian exports in the first eight months of 1989.

Azar said JPMC had exported 6.4 million tonnes last year, compared with exports of 5.8 million tonnes in 1988.

Fertiliser exports last year went mainly to East Africa and South Asia, instead of to Europe as in the past, Azar said.

JPMC made a gross profit of 109 million dinars (\$160 million) and will pay 50 million dinars in company tax. The board of directors had recommended paying a dividend of 20 per cent to shareholders, against 15 per cent in 1988.

Azar expected world phosphate prices, which have firmed in recent years, to rise by \$2 or \$3 a tonne in 1990 to a range of \$32 to \$35, depending on grade and quality.

The new Shidiya mine, being developed in the southern desert with help from the World Bank and Arab funds, produced 800,000 tonnes of phosphate rock last year, compared with 300,000 in the previous year.

JPMC has been discussing joint ventures to produce phosphoric acid, compound fertiliser and triple super phosphate with India, the Soviet Union and Pakistan.

Azar said he hoped expansion plans, involving up to six joint ventures, would be clarified by June.

West Germany extends stock exchange hours

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany's eight stock exchanges started opening for three hours each trading day instead of two as part of a campaign to counter competition from foreign bourses.

Although demand for West German stocks has surged since the opening of East German borders last November, the exchanges have been struggling to hold onto their own business.

Nearly one third of all turnover in West German blue chip shares is transacted not in Frankfurt or Hamburg but in London.

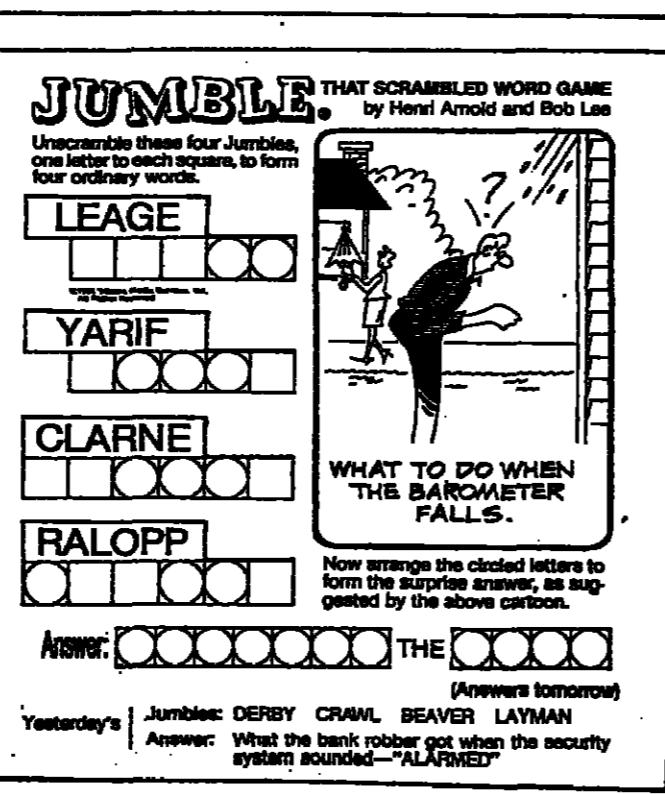
Frankfurt bank Georg Hauck und Sohn said in its latest report that the extension of bourse hours "should lead to a further strengthening of the West German stock market."

Brokers welcomed the extra hour, saying it helped them handle the scramble for shares by investors who believe West German companies are best placed to benefit from the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

Official trade now begins one hour earlier at 1030 local time (0930 GMT) and ends as usual at



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1990

'UAE reaching WC finals a dream come true'

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates' success in reaching the World Cup finals in Italy this year is "a dream come true," but it was little chance of getting past the first round, the former national squad captain said Monday.

But Ahmed Eissa stressed in an interview with the Associated Press that the UAE team is out to play hard and gain the most experience it can playing the world's top soccer teams.

"It's a dream come true for the UAE," said Eissa. "I never expected to see the team qualify for the World Cup finals in my lifetime."

It will be the first time the Emirate's squad has reached the finals of soccer's top tournament. The UAE is grouped with former champions West Germany.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHANAH HIRSCH
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force. It can be passed should North

Yugoslav and Colombia in the 24-nation finals starting June 9.

"naturally we're overjoyed, but we know that we don't progress beyond the first round. However, that won't stop us from giving our best," Eissa said.

Eissa has watched the Germans, Yugoslavs and Colombians play, noted: "They're all very good and professional."

"It's a unique experience for the Emirate to play with the world's best teams and we mustn't waste this opportunity."

He added: "The players must be prepared to work hard. They must not only make the best use of the opportunity, but keep the UAE and Gulf flag flying high with their performances."

"Even when they're losing, they mustn't lose heart. They must fight on."

Eissa, 38, was the captain of

the UAE's first national squad when it was formed in 1972 and stayed on as skipper until 1980.

When he began his soccer career — he played midfield — the UAE, a federation of seven Gulf emirates, had been formed only a few months earlier.

In those days, soccer games were played on sand. But the sport has come a long way since the Emirates' oil wealth was spent lavishly on providing facilities and developing players.

There are now 29 clubs in the UAE, split into two divisions, reflecting soccer's coming of age in the Gulf region.

In recent years, Kuwait and Iraq have also qualified for the World Cup finals. Saudi Arabia took part in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and won the junior World Cup last year.

Soccer was introduced into the UAE about 1940, back in the days when the emirates, then known as part of the trucial coast, were under British protection. British teams arranged friendly games in the region.

The former Al Ahli Club captain now works for the country's governing sports body, the UAE

supreme council in the youth and sports.

"We Arabs took to football... because we love an exciting sport," Eissa said.

"Before the UAE was formed, each emirate had different leagues and the standards were low. But after the national league was formed in 1972 things began to get better organised."

For a while, clubs in the emirates of Dubai played on astro turf pitches. But these were abandoned in the early 1980s because of a high injury rate and the lower cost of maintaining grass pitches.

Eissa was one of the driving forces behind a 1983 move to ban foreign players from competing in local leagues.

At that time, the Gulf countries were using their oil wealth to attract Arab and international stars to strengthen their national teams.

"When the football association decided to ban foreign players, it hoped that would allow local players to fill the gaps and give them an incentive to play better football," Eissa said.

"Now we know that it's paid off and we're happy about it."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when problems from the past will need your immediate attention and you may need to expend more time and effort than you have available.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good time to plan trips with friends who are interesting or talented. Be considerate and take your family away from home to new places.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will find you and your family are in harmony about your joint objectives. Don't hesitate to discuss any and all issues with your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Listen closely to an outspoken person who has suggested in solving a problem. Home can be more attractive and comfortable by some new items.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make sure any plans for outside recreations is carefully arranged. Your home can be a particularly happy place today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get out in the world of action to carry through whatever promises you have made. You can have a very good time getting out on the town with your attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) If you want to add to your home in anyway, now is the time to do so. Be ready to be off on a jaunt

with your attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Discuss family plans now with an outsider who can help. Help your attachment to express his or her talent in any project there might be.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chayka



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Becker, McEnroe ease past 1st hurdle

By Robert Woodward
Reuters

MELBOURNE — Boris Becker, in a hurry to become world number one, and John McEnroe, who at 30 realises time is rapidly running out, expended little effort to race into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The pair each lost just four games, Becker routing Dutchman Paul Haarsma 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 on the centre court where the American number four seed earlier disposed of Frenchman Thierry Tulasne's limp challenge 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

Becker, often a slow starter in

major tournaments, was delighted with his performance in the night game. "I think it was one of the best first round grand slam matches ever for me. From the first point I was really playing very well which is not normal," the number two seed said.

Both players have claimed three Wimbledon singles crowns and also won the U.S. Open but have yet to win the Australian title. McEnroe knows 1990 could be his last chance.

"I know I don't have that much time left," said McEnroe, "I'm bypassing the doubles here to stay fresh. I still think I'm a long shot to win this tournament."

Becker admits he has not played to his potential at the Australian Open, never passing the quarter-finals.

But victory in Melbourne would give him three successive grand slam titles and underline his claim to be the world's best player rather than Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl.

Becker needed to play at little more than half pace against Haarsma, who beat McEnroe at the 1989 U.S. Open.

The Dutchman appeared ill at ease, making too many unforced errors as his opponent moved him at will around the court, but Becker said he had also been nervous.

I was thinking very much about how I beat McEnroe and it made me a little afraid at the beginning," said Becker. "Maybe that's the reason why I played so well."

"But in a grand slam if you want to win the tournament you cannot play too well too early because you'll play worse by the time the quarter-final comes around. It's a fine line playing not too good and not bad."

Third seed Stefan Edberg, who saved three set points in the first set before moving past Australia's Johan Anderson, said it was too early to speak of Becker as the next king of men's tennis.

"I see myself as a contender although at the moment looking at the rankings it is a battle between Lendl and Becker and me coming a little behind," said Edberg, who reached two grand slam finals in 1989. He won 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Tuesday.

On the second day of the two-week championships only one man's seed, Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany, and one women's, Larissa Savchenko of the Soviet Union, failed to make it through the first round.

Number 10 seed Steeb already tired after his efforts in reaching the New South Wales Open final last week, fell 5-7, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 to Finland's Veli Palohiemme while Savchenko, seeded 12, lost out after a titanic struggle to France's Catherine Tanvier 4-6, 6-1, 12-10.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini took some time to find her range



John McEnroe
against hard-hitting American Amy Frazier, recovering from 5-3 down in the first set to win 7-5, 6-1.

Three men's seeds, Andres Gomez of Ecuador (9), Yannick Noah of France (12) and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union (11), needed five sets to reach the second round.

Noah, who defeated Steeb in the New South Wales Open final, was also still sore from his exertions and complained he could not function properly in a match that started at 10 a.m.

"I hate waking up early in the morning and having to work hard. I've never been able to be physically 100 per cent in the morning," he said after beating Yugoslav Goran Prpic, who led 3-0 in the fifth set with a point for 4-0.

Chesnokov, who conducts press conferences with the same languid grace with which Czechoslovak Milosov Mecier plays tennis, agreed he nearly left it too late to win his game against Australia's Mark Kratzmann, coming from two sets down to 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 on Tuesday.

"When the score was 5-4 (in the third set tiebreak). I just closed my eyes and hit the ball as hard as possible," Chesnokov said.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini took some time to find her range

The Star

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Boat people protest Hurd's visit

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of Vietnamese boat people protested Tuesday during a visit by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to a detention centre, pleading against forced returns to their communist homeland.

Wearing white head bands reading "No forced repatriation," the refugees gathered in the exercise yard of Hei Ling Chan detention centre before Hurd arrived for a 25-minute visit.

In comments to reporters at the camp, Hurd said forced repatriation was the only solution to Hong Kong's boat people crisis. Vietnamese greeted the visit with shouts and fist raising.

The government began forcible repatriation on Dec. 12 in a pre-dawn operation at a detention centre in Kowloon. In all, 51 men, women and children were sent back to Hanoi.

Of the 40,000 Vietnamese in detention centres throughout the colony, about 85 per cent face being sent home because they will not qualify for refugee status under a screening process.

Hong Kong divides the Vietnamese into "economic migrants," who it says have no right to remain in the territory, and refugees, who risk political persecution at home and will be allowed to seek refuge in a third country.

Meanwhile, the United Nations announced that a group of 120 Vietnamese were to voluntarily return to their homeland Tuesday. So far, 997 Vietnamese have voluntarily gone back to Vietnam. More than 1,000 are waiting to return.

The foreign secretary, on the last day of a four-day visit to Hong Kong, said the demonstration was expected and non-threatening.

Hurd said the camps held too many people in too small a space but added that forcing them out of Hong Kong was the only way to solve the problem.

On Monday, Amnesty International issued a report harshly criticising the Hong Kong government's treatment of the Vietnamese. It accused police and security forces of beating refugees and said investigations of official brutality were quashed by the agencies involved.

The London-based human rights organisation said Hong Kong had placed the Vietnamese in "squalid" detention centres to stem the tide of refugees fleeing Vietnam. That, it said, was a violation of the U.N. Charter on refugees.

The government called the report "unfounded" and denied the brutality charges.

11 found dead

The bodies of 11 women, believed to have been boat people killed by pirates, have washed up on Thailand's southern shore, police said Tuesday.

Six bodies were found on the beaches of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Sunday and five more Monday, said a senior officer on condition of anonymity.

Some of the bodies were stripped, and each had a nylon rope tied around the neck, he said. They showed no stab or gunshot wounds.

Ceausescu's son, others face charges of genocide

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — The youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu will be put on trial this week along with other close associates of the executed Romanian dictator.

Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu said Monday that the case against Nicu Ceausescu, 36, would begin this week although he did not specify the precise charges against him.

Robu, in interviews on television and with the Romania Libera newspaper, said Ceausescu family members and associates would face such charges as complicity in genocide, abetting genocide, qualified murder and undermining the national economy.

Nicu, whose stronghold was the central provincial capital of Sibiu, was arrested shortly after Dec. 22 overthrow of his father.

Robu said those standing trial

from this week would include former political and administrative personalities, members of Ceausescu's family and hundreds of "terrorists."

Romania's new rulers use the term "terrorists" to describe members of Ceausescu's hated secret police and anyone else who fought to keep the dictator in power.

Ceausescu's eldest son Valentin and his daughter Zoe are also under arrest awaiting trial.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day after a brief trial by a military tribunal for genocide, rapists and "terrorists."

Trials are to begin Friday in Timisoara for 11 Securitate members, Rompess said. The Securitate's shooting of demonstrators in Timisoara last month ignited the Romanian revolution.

Police had said Saturday those trials were to begin Monday. There was no explanation for the delay.

The government, meanwhile, promised Monday to consult all opposition parties on the timing of elections, but said it would make the final decision on the controversial question.

put the matter to a referendum on Jan. 28.

The government also announced an amnesty Monday for crimes committed before the Dec. 22 revolution that overthrew the regime. It excluded from the Amnesty former functionaries of Ceausescu, murderers, rapists and "terrorists."

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Teenager, baby freed after uproar

LONDON (AP) — A teenage mother jailed with her baby in a shopping case is to be freed, a court ruled Monday, ending a legal drama that had Britain in uproar.

Tracey Scott, a 19-year-old unmarried supermarket cashier, was jailed for six months by a judge who said he wanted to deter women from getting pregnant to avoid jail.

Her crime was to let friends walk out of the supermarket with goods unpaid for. She pleaded guilty to 10 charges of theft, and went to prison two weeks ago with her daughter, Alesha, then 10 weeks old.

Coming from Northern Circuit Judge James Pickles, the punishment was not entirely a surprise. The 64-year-old judge is known nationwide for his quirky sentencing.

Only last June he was in the headlines for jailing a witness who was too frightened to testify against a man accused of beating her up, and the day after putting

Scott in prison. He let off two of the supermarket thieves with 50 hours community service apiece.

"By making a lottery of the law, Judge Pickles treats the public with contempt. He must not be allowed to continue," said the tabloid Today newspaper.

The Times opined that "Judge Pickles' decision again needs questioning in this case."

Pickles maintained in his verdict that while he did not suspect Scott of getting pregnant to avoid going to prison, he was afraid other women might get that idea.

"Would it be right," he asked, "to let young women known that one way of possibly or probably avoiding custody would be to deliberately become pregnant between the time they have been detected committing a crime and the time they were being sentenced?"

Lord Lane, the lord chief justice, clearly thought not. Presiding over Monday's court of appeals hearing, he said Pickles'

reasoning had left a "most unfortunate" impression.

The offence was not serious enough to warrant imprisonment, Lane said. A high school dropout from a broken home, Scott had been a good worker at the supermarket in Huddersfield, Northern England, and sinned only to win popularity, he said.

Pickles, the judge said, "seems to us to have been concerned more with the public import of what he was doing and saying, rather than the justice of it."

Scott is in Styal women's prison in Cheshire, and was brought to a court hearing in London Tuesday where she was to be formally released.

Pickles is an unusual judge. He flouts regulations by discussing his actions in the news media, and takes a blunt-talking populist line. "I don't like the notion of aristocracy or even monarchy. I don't accept anyone is different from me because they were born in a different bed," he told the Sunday Times in March.

back on the hustings within days.

Most people expected the birth closer to the Nov. 16 general elections, but Bhutto kept her secret and went on to win the polls and become the Muslim World's first woman prime minister.

This birth is also expected to be caesarean, which gives the prime minister an element of choice about the date.

Government sources say she will take about 10 days off to recuperate, but will then have to come to grips with some of her most pressing problems.

"I think there is going to be an attempt to put things on an even keel but whether she will be successful I do not know," a European diplomat said.

Her problem is that anybody she dismisses from the government will be an instant target for opposition offers and could be tempted to switch sides.

Bhutto had a majority of only 12 in November's confidence vote, which leaves little room for manoeuvre.

Islamabad in inertia awaiting 'the birth'

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuter

"We have a government that has been in a state of resignation since mid-November. That is ridiculous," newspaper editor Meleeta Lodhi said.

"This inertia has gripped the government party because of the feeling that once she delivers the baby she will deliver something else too," he said.

Political insiders and intelligence sources have been whispering dates for a month but all the dates come and go without anything happening.

The 36-year-old prime minister is swathed in a figure-concealing shawl whenever she appears in public and it is considered rude in Islamic Pakistan to ask her directly about her pregnancy.

Last week, leaders of her Pakistan People's Party in Karachi jumped the gun by firing off congratulatory messages on the birth of a second son.

Bhutto fooled everybody when her first child, Bilawal, was born by caesarean section on Sept. 21, 1988. She was

admitted to the hospital within days.

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"What they have failed to do," he said, "is give this government any sense of purpose."

"She has to decide whether she is going to lead or always be looking over her shoulder."

The Senate panel reported

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Storming of secret police HQ alarms East Berlin

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's Communists said Tuesday the storming of secret police headquarters showed the country's "street revolution" could get out of hand.

But workers in one city Tuesday ignored appeals for calm by the Communists and the pro-democracy opposition and staged a warning strike.

The six-hour strike at a state-owned factory in Gera, in southern East Germany, was staged by workers to show dissatisfaction with the still-dominant Communists, according to West Berlin's RIAS radio station.

In Bonn, the conservative daily newspaper Die Welt said Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was expected to visit East Berlin in the next two or three weeks.

Die Welt, quoting what it called well-informed sources in East Berlin, said Gorbachev planned a "massive show of support" for his long-time friend, East German Communist Premier Hans Modrow.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans protested Monday in several cities, including Jena, Zwickau and East Berlin, and mobs ransacked secret police headquarters in East Berlin.

Opposition group's calls for restraint had prevented injuries during the storming.

The secret police headquarters remained under control of an opposition-led "citizens' committee," regular police officers and government representatives.

In a commentary Tuesday, the Communist Party daily newspaper Neues Deutschland said organizers of protests like that which preceded the storming of secret police headquarters must accept responsibility for the consequences.

"Responsibility also means having a clear idea about consequences before calling for a demonstration, so that things don't get out of hand," the newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Neues Deutschland added:

"The call for 'no violence,' which has marked the street revolution,

but that "the identity of the workers was not revealed."

Wiederich said damage at the building was in the "millions of marks."

However, earlier Tuesday, East Berlin police chief Dirk Bachmann gave a far lower damage estimate, saying it was "hundreds of thousands of marks."

Bachmann also said opposition

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